

From Corpus Christi Bay to Bosnia: All in a Day's Work for Two Corpus Christi, Texas Distribution Center Employees

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Linwood Moore, Distribution Facilities Specialist at Defense Distribution Depot Corpus Christi, TX (DDCT) deployed to Bosnia for six months on July 29. Cleola Murphy, General Supply Specialist at DDCT, deployed September 2. Both deployments are part of a DLA Contingency Support Team (DCST) effort.

Moore and Murphy are part of a larger effort developed by DLA to cultivate a pool of people from material handlers to logisticians that will support the various theater commanders or any disaster, inside the United States or out.

Cleola Murphy has no prior military background. Linwood Moore retired from the U. S. Navy with 20 years of active service. He said, "Being an ex-military person, this offer does allow me the opportunity to support the active military and reflect on old memories."

Although they don't generally think of themselves as adventurous, both Murphy and Moore see this opportunity as a great adventure. Murphy said, "I'm looking for a change. Instead of issuing and inventorying the material, I'll be requesting & tracking it. I'll also get a chance to really see first hand how DLA interacts with the military forces."

Moore hopes to "achieve DDC goals and objectives that go beyond the Right Item, Right Time, Right Price, On Time, Every Time." Moore and Murphy will deploy with a team of specialized folks ranging from Supply Class Specialists to Transportation experts, to DRMO Specialists.

When asked what makes them nervous about this deployment Moore said, "Nothing; I have placed it into the Lord's hands."

Murphy said, "Leaving my family behind kind of makes me nervous. Not wanting them to worry about me. Dying — well a little, but when my turn is up there is nothing much I can do about, God will take you away at anytime or anyplace."

DDCT management had a tough decision in letting Moore and Murphy deploy. DDCT Deputy Commander, Robert Rosarius said, "We really cannot afford to let them go, both individuals are key employees in one-deep positions at our center. We understand the need to have a DLA presence in the field and will do what is necessary to support that. We also see a significant benefit upon their return, in that they will bring back a lot of experiences and most importantly, the perspective from our customers — the warfighters."

DDCT serves as the primary wholesale distribution point for major components to support helicopter repair missions for DoD and Foreign Military Sales customers worldwide. Its mission is to receive, store, pack, preserve, issue and arrange transportation for assigned supplies and equipment as directed by DLA and Service Inventory Control Point Item Managers.

Linwood Moore (left) and Cleola Murphy (seated) with DDCT Deputy, Robert Rosarius, before they deploy.



DLA has asked all Primary Level Field Activities (PLFAs) to support DCST and develop a process to find the right mix of civilians, active duty military, and reservists to participate. This requires screening and selection, deploying as a team, and general and specialized training.

In DDC, the assignment went to the DDC J-5, Strategic Plans, and is led by Sue Alpaugh and Lisa Walker. Alpaugh and Walker first sent letters out to all DDC distribution centers asking for volunteers. They received twelve applications for this first deployment. The applications were reviewed by Walker and Alpaugh as well as civilian personnel.

After this hurdle, the applicants went through physical and dental exams. After the medical exams, training began. Forty hours of extensive training in DDC computerized databases of WEBVLIPS, WEBCATS, PCLINK, and WEBLINK makes up the one week course in logistics computer operations, called Material Management Contingency Training (MMCT).

Another one-week course in military skills, called Basic Contingency Orientation Training (BCOT), prepared the readily deployable DCST personnel for worldwide deployment to austere environments in support of military operations. This course was developed by DLA to provide contingency awareness, basic self-protection techniques, and common survival skills needed in any contingency environment. Additional training will be provided on specific jobs once the staff reaches Bosnia.

Upon passing the initial training, security clearances were updated and passports prepared. The last piece of the puzzle was final acceptance by the forward commander in Europe.

The ultimate goal of DCST is to develop a pool of people that will not only support the billet requirements for the European Command, but also be able to support any disaster, inside the continental US or out.

When the deployments for Moore and Murphy come to an end, they will each spend two weeks in country with their replacements to ensure a complete pass-down.

If you would like to be considered for other contingencies, contact Sue Alpaugh or Lisa Walker at 717-770-4114.